

I strongly object to the initiative that is providing "Broadband over PowerLine." It is clear that, while power lines are indeed transmission lines, they are not very good ones at the higher frequencies that are characteristic of these signals (spectral content up to 80 MHz). As a result, they will interfere with much of the radio transmission below 80 MHz.

BPL is redundant. It is simply an attempt by the power utilities to extract extra value out of their infrastructure, but it does little to increase the availability of true broadband for the consumer: DSL and cable modems are both examples in which the "equivalent circuit rate" is truly broadband.

I am especially disturbed at the effect that this BPL initiative will have on the amateur radio bands. I am not an amateur, but applaud their long history of being among the "first responders" time after time when they are needed. While some of these responders now use 2m and higher bands, they also use the lower bands that will be affected by this proposed service.

I think BPL is ill considered, and will actually result in harm to the populace at large as well as to the amateur radio operators. Media hoopla (including Commissioner Powell's visit to a BPL site) notwithstanding, this approach is simply a giveaway to the power utilities for no appreciable social good and a significant social cost.